

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 9-20 are canceled. Claim 1 is an independent claim. No new matter has been added.

In the Second FOA, the Examiner rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,458,114 to Herr ("Herr"); and rejected claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

As discussed above, Applicant cancels claims 9-16. Applicant submits that this cancellation obviates the Second FOA's rejection of claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and requests that the associated rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As also discussed above, Applicant cancels claims 17-20. Applicant submits that this cancellation obviates the Second FOA's rejection of claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and requests that the associated rejection be withdrawn.

Request for Reconsideration and Allowance

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-8 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; in particular, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____

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